New York State Forensic Overview

- Office of Forensic Services
- Commission on Forensic Science
  - Quality Assurance Subcommittee
  - Funding Subcommittee
- DNA Subcommittee
- New York Crime Laboratory Advisory Committee
- Technical Working Groups (TWG)
- Mandatory Laboratory Accreditation Program:
  - ASCLD/LAB (ISO by 2012) and ABFT
- Require a DNA Sample for all Felonies and 35 Misdemeanors
- Subject Index
- Partial Match Policy
Office of Forensic Services

- Coordinates forensic training statewide
- Supports the Commission on Forensic Science, DNA Subcommittee, TWG activities
- Monitors laboratory compliance and prepares reports for the Commission and DNA Subcommittee
- Reviews lab audits and proficiency tests to monitor compliance
- Administrative oversight of the NYS DNA Databank
- Tracks all DNA Hits
- Provides an average of $7 million annually in State grant funds to enhance the quality and delivery of forensic services
Commission on Forensic Science

- Develop and maintain standards and a program of accreditation for all NYS forensic laboratories

- Oversee implementation of scientific controls and quality assurance procedures

- Chaired by Commissioner of the Division of Criminal Justice Services and comprised of 14 members delineated by statute representing: prosecution, defense, courts, forensic labs and law enforcement
New York Crime Laboratory Advisory Council

- Advisory Board
- Promote / Implement Improvement in Crime Laboratory Services
- Standardization of Crime Laboratory Services
- Legislative Liaison for Crime Laboratories
- Members: Lab Directors; Office of Forensic Services Director; Judiciary; District Attorneys; and Law Enforcement
NYS Public Forensic Crime Laboratories
Accredited Forensic Disciplines

- Biology (DNA)
- Controlled Substances
- Firearms / Toolmarks
- Toxicology / Forensic Toxicology
- Trace Evidence
- Questioned Documents
- Latent Prints
- Crime Scene
- Digital and Multimedia Evidence
Technical Working Groups

- Biology (DNA)
- Trace Evidence
- Fire Debris
- Firearms/Toolmarks
- Latent Prints
- Toxicology
- Controlled Substances
- Quality Assurance
- Questioned Documents
- Digital and Multimedia Evidence
Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program
NYS Competitive Funds Focus

- Facilitate a highly specialized technical training program for crime laboratory personnel to increase proficiency and analytical methods and eliminate backlogs
NYS Application Process

- Review Solicitation Carefully

- Application is written by Office of Forensic Services

- Reviewed by various units in agency: Office of Program Development and Funding; Legal; Human Resources; Finance; Deputy Commissioner; and Executive Deputy Commissioner
Competitive Funds Application

- Prioritize Training Needs

- Consider Impact / Effect on Backlog

- Estimate Costs for Instructors
  - Include potential instructors for each proposed training
    (NY State Finance Law prohibits contracting with instructors prior to grant award)

- Estimate Attendance

- Cost Effective (recently opened trainings to other states when space is available to maximize cost efficiencies)
How are Trainings Determined?

- Laboratory Requests
- Commission on Forensic Science
- New York Crime Laboratory Advisory Council
- Technical Working Groups
- Inspector General Recommendations
- Course Critiques
- Attendance at Professional Meetings
- Proficiency Tests
- Annual Workload Survey
- NAS Report
Forensic Training Instructors

- Nationally Recognized Instructors
- Cost, Expertise, Availability
- Continuous Open Solicitation for Instructors via Request for Application
- Course Critiques
- Recommendations by TWGs, Lab Directors and Forensic Analysts
Effective and Cost Efficient Regional Trainings

- Reduces travel costs

- Reduces time away from lab

- Venues are determined by space requirements and cost: labs; local law enforcement training centers; colleges; and hotel conference space
Challenges and Considerations

- Fiscal Crisis
- Hiring Freeze Leads to Increased Backlogs
- Issues Raised in the NAS Report
- Supporting all Disciplines
Coverdell Supported Trainings

- A2LA ISO 17025 and Accreditation
- Advanced Fire Debris Analysis Course
- Analysis of Distortion in Latent Prints
- ASCLD/LAB *International* Assessor Training
- ASCLD/LAB *International* Prep class
- Basic Pharmacology
- Basics of Handwriting
- Blood Spatter Interpretation
- CODIS and DNA Trends & Issues
- Corrective Action, Root Cause Analysis & Preventive Action
- Crystal Reports - Basic and Advanced
- DNA Mixtures
- DNA Statistics
- DNA Symposium
- DUID Tox workshop
- Ethics for Forensic Scientists
- Examination and Comparison of Tire Track Evidence
- Expert Witness Testimony Workshop
- FBI Fundamentals of Handwriting
- FBI Laboratory Analysis of Fire Debris
- Forensic Ridgeology
- Infrared Analysis of Controlled Substances
- Infrared Analysis of Trace Evidence
- Integrity, Character and Ethics in the Forensic Sciences
- Introduction to Forensic Digital Imaging
- Laboratory Analysis of Pressure Sensitive Tape
- LC/MS/MS
- Macintosh Forensic Seminar
- Physical Fracture Match Workshop
- Porter Lee BEAST User Group
- Professionalism in the Forensic Sciences
- Science of Identification Seminar
- Scientifically Defensible Toolmarks
- TrueAllele®
- Vehicle & Traffic Law for Toxicologists

*Repeat Courses and Multiple Locations Not Listed*
Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program
Competitive Awards

Forensic Scientist Training

- 2005: $100,000
- 2006: $100,000
- 2007: $100,000
- 2008: $100,000
- 2009: $150,000
- 2010: $175,000

Total Awards: $575,000
Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program Awards 2005 – 2010

- $585,000 in Awards
- 46 Forensic Science Trainings
- 1,613 Forensic Scientists Trained
- Cost Per-Scientist is $363
Office of Forensic Services
518.457.1901

For More Information:
www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us
(click on “Forensic Services/DNA”)